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Community *notes*

Math Festival

Be amazed at Howard County's party for math, the 3rd annual HoCo Math Festival on Tuesday, November 10 for K-12 Students. This free event is sponsored by STEMulating Minds. The Festival will be held at Long Reach High School on Tuesday, November 10 from 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



Come discover that math is fun and enjoyable with activities and presentations. Find out why you cannot have sports, cooking, music, video games and other important parts of life without math. Many organizations will be participating including NSA, US Coast Guard, American Eagle, Urban Video Games Association, Science Cheerleaders, Numbers Alive and the Columbia Association.

- Elementary school students will learn to create secret codes and solve math puzzles
- Girls will learn about women who made significant achievements in STEM, as portrayed by actresses who work in STEM.
- Middle School students will learn how to send their friends secret messages.
- High School students will learn about math and careers.

For more information please visit [here](#).

Greeting

The start of November gets people thinking about Thanksgiving and year-end holidays. As you do this, I invite you to join me and participate in the Howard County Food Bank's Foodraising Campaign (page 2). More of our neighbors than ever are experiencing tough times and we can do something about it.

Maury Kay

Holiday Closings

Howard County Government offices, courts, senior centers and animal shelter will be closed in observance of Veterans' Day on Wednesday, November 11.

Regular trash and recycling services will be in effect and the Alpha Ridge Landfill will be open. While county parks, historic sites, community centers and the Robinson Nature Center will be open, the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex, Kiwanis-Wallas Hall, Cedar Lane Activity Room and the Schooley Mill Park Activity Room will be open only for scheduled programs. The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a regular weekday schedule; for more information on RTA, please call 1-800-270-9553 or visit www.transitrt.com. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect on Wednesday, November 11.



The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1. For non-emergencies, please call 410-313-2200. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on Thursday, November 12.

Help Families In Need This Thanksgiving

Community Action Council, in partnership with Wegmans-Columbia, will hold its 11th annual Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution for eligible Howard County families on Tuesday, November 24. The distribution will take place at St. John Baptist Church, 9055 Tamar Drive, and will start at 11:00 a.m. and end around 2:00 p.m.

More than 800 pre-selected families will receive a turkey and other food items such as yams, apples, green beans, potatoes, cranberry sauce, and stuffing mix.

The cost of the distribution is supported through Wegmans' "Care about Hunger" campaign. Community Action Council would be grateful if you could help get the word out about the campaign and encourage your network of friends and family to shop and donate at Wegmans. 100% of the funds raised is used to help Howard County families who are food insecure.

Drainage Improvement Project

A Howard County construction project to improve drainage along Stansfield Road in the vicinity of Bill Lilly Court in Laurel has begun. The project will include the installation of a storm drain pipe across Stanfield Road. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by Friday, November 6, 2015.

Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic during construction hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., as Stansfield Road will be open to one lane of traffic in the work zone. Signs will be posted in the area to alert motorists of the construction and lane closure.

For questions or concerns about this project, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at 410-313-3440 or by email to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Holiday Food & Wine Tasting

Whole Foods Market of Columbia invites you to join other Women Leaders for a holiday food and wine tasting to benefit Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center and help you get ready for holiday entertaining on Monday, November 30 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$60, \$100 for sponsors. First come, first served. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Purchase tickets [here](#).

Proceeds benefit Grassroots, Howard County's 24-hour crisis intervention center and shelter for the homeless.



The Artful Spirit

The Meeting House Gallery presents "The Artful Spirit" works by Christina Bird-Walker, Winnie Coggins, Brenda Kidera, Joyce Ritter, and Rhona Schonwald. These works include photography, acrylic and oil painting, glazes, ceramics and quilts. The show will run until December 24.



The Artist Receptions will be held on Sunday, November 22, 2015 and Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Holiday Craft & Flea Market

The Howard County NAACP Youth Council is sponsoring a Holiday Craft/Yard and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 14. This event will be held at the Ridgely's Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road, Jessup, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

There will be toys, holiday crafts, antiques, clothing, household items, baked goods and many other items for sale. Vendor space is \$20.00. Set up time is 7:00 a.m. For additional information call, 443-280-1935.

The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon!

Wilde Lake High School Theatre Arts Department is proud to present its fall production of *"The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon!"*

The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride as two storytellers and a troupe of somewhat-competent actors attempt to combine all 209 Grimm tales

This wild, free-form comedy includes lots of audience participation, crazy cross-dressing, and madcap fun! Show times are 7:00 p.m.: Thursday, 11/12, Friday, 11/13, Saturday, 11/14. An afternoon matinee performance is also offered at 2pm on Saturday, November 14. Seating is limited to 135 persons per performance. Tickets are \$13.00 for general admission and are available on-line [here](#) or may be purchased at the door.

Adopt a Family

Foreign-born Information and Referral Network (FIRN) is looking for individuals and organizations to help support families in need this Thanksgiving and holiday season. Almost 100 families in Howard County apply for this program and need your help. A simple gift can really make a difference. To help those in your community this holiday season, please call 443-276-3166.

Autumn Outdoor Maintenance

Howard County's Department of Public Works is phasing out the collection of yard trim (leaves, grass and brush) from plastic bags. As you may be aware, collected yard trim is taken to compost and mulch facilities. At these locations, plastic bags damage the machinery and reduce the quality of finished compost and mulch products. Small plastic fragments also become air- and water-borne litter. Due to these factors, regional processors, including the County's contracted yard trim processor, will no longer accept material in regular plastic bags.

Find more information, including your transition day on DPW's webpage. You may place your yard waste in:

- Paper bags
- Rigid reusable containers (use your food scrap container if you are on the route)
- Bundle brush with twine

Yard trim set out in plastic bags will not be collected.

Residents will need to re-package the material and set it out on their next collection day. As of January 1, 2016 every household receiving County provided yard trim collection will have made the transition to prohibit plastic bags.



You may find paper yard waste bags bundled in as few as a 5-pack. Feel free to search online for your best prices and shipping options. You may find free shipping to your local store is available as well.

Please do not allow a landscaper not to blow the leaves and debris into the storm drains.

Another important reminder, YARD WASTE MUST NOT BE DUMPED INTO THE ROAD.

Reported by a neighbor on Green Mountain Circle

Rainbow Theatre

Rainbow Theatre presents "Magic Toy Shop", a puppet show performed by Bob Brown Puppets, on Friday, November 6 at 10am at Slayton House Theatre. See this magical show at a ticket price of \$5 per ticket. This is sponsored by Wilde Lake Community Association. For more information, call 410-730-3987 or email events@wildelake.org.

Healthy Eating Fest

Please join Howard Community College on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Howard Community College to learn how to choose healthier and more sustainable foods. This event is free and open to the public. Please bring your family, friends and neighbors. Please register [here](#).

Scholarship Opportunity

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award. Up to six \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from local high schools who have shown a history of providing community service to benefit Columbia residents and those in the Columbia area.

The students must live on CA-assessed property or have a parent/guardian who works full-time on or owns CA-assessed property. Applicants must be graduating in May/June 2016 from an accredited public, private or parochial high school and need to have a minimum of a "C" cumulative grade point average (2.0). Applications are available [online](#). Applications must be submitted by March 15, 2016.

Chip Card Scams

If you have a credit or debit card, you have or soon will receive a replacement card equipped with new security feature - a small square metallic chip on the front. The chip is designed to reduce fraud, including counterfeiting. Unfortunately, scammers are trying to take advantage of this nationwide shift to chip cards.

Here's how the scam works – an e-mail or phone call from someone who claims to be your card issuer. The scammer says that in order to issue a new chip card, you need to update your account by "confirming" some personal information or clicking on a link to continue the process.

To avoid this scam, remember:

- Your card issuer may let you know that your new chip card is on its way but will not ask you to provide the card number or other personal information to "confirm" your account before sending the new card.
- If your issuer suspects that your card has been used fraudulently, it will not ask you to provide your card number. Rather, it will provide you with specific information about your card (e.g. the last four digits of the card number) and the transaction so that you can confirm whether you made the purchase or withdrawal.
- If you're not sure if a call or email is a scam, contact your card issuer using the number listed on the card.

Bottom line - Don't respond to an email, phone call or letter that asks you to provide your card number.



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